

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

Criminal Justice Statistics Special Report

Homicide in North Dakota, 2012



**Attorney General
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The term "homicide," for purposes of this report, includes the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) offenses of murder and non-negligent manslaughter. Homicide refers to the "willful killing of one human being by another." It does not include attempts to kill, assaults to kill, suicides, accidental deaths, justifiable homicides or deaths caused by gross negligence.

HOMICIDE IN 2012

- In 2012, twenty homicide deaths were known to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. Based on a state population estimate of 699,628, the resulting homicide rate for the state of North Dakota was 2.9 per 100,000 population. See Table 2 on page 3 for information regarding rates for previous years.
- **Victim Gender:** Fourteen of the homicide victims were male.
- **Victim Age:** Fourteen of the victims were adults. "Adult" is defined as a person aged 18 or older. See Table 1 on page 2 for a summary of homicide incidents in 2012.
- **Weapons:** Firearms were involved in the deaths of seven homicide victims.
- **Domestic Violence:** There were six homicides in 2012 resulting from domestic violence incidents. See definition on page 10.
- **Assailant Gender:** Fifteen of the seventeen identified assailants were male.
- **Assailant Age:** Sixteen of the seventeen of the identified assailants were adults.
- While tribal law enforcement agencies and any other federal law enforcement entities in the state do not participate in the state UCR program, every effort is made to include all homicide incidents occurring within the state's borders.

Table 1
Summary of Homicide Incidents
North Dakota, 2012

Date & Location of Incident	Victim(s)		Assailant(s)		Weapons Used	Relationship of Victim to Assailant	Circumstances
	Age	Sex	Age	Sex			
1/31/2012 Beulah	22	M	29 24	M M	Firearm	Friend Friend	Drug Related
2/28/2012 Fargo	52	F	49	M	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Spouse	Domestic Violence
03/26/2012 Bismarck	83	F	47	M	Blunt Object	Parent	Domestic Violence
4/19/2012 Mandan	60	F	65	M	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Girlfriend	Domestic Violence
6/3/2012 Fort Berthold Res.	27	M	Unknown		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown Circumstance
7/6/2012 Bismarck	40	M	42	M	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Acquaintance	Unknown Circumstance
7/8/2012 Fargo	51	F	54	M	Firearm	Spouse	Murder/Suicide Domestic Violence
7/8/2012 Bottineau	9 5	M M	30	M	Motor Vehicle	Otherwise Known Otherwise Known	Other Circumstance
7/20/2012 Fort Berthold Res.	30	M	20	M	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Otherwise Known	Other Circumstance
8/4/2012 Williams County	57	M	24	M	Handgun	Otherwise Known	Argument
8/14/2012 Watford City	26	M	22	M	Motor Vehicle	Acquaintance	Argument
9/19/2012 Ransom County	1	M	28	F	Personal Weapon	Child	Child Abuse Domestic Violence
10/29/2012 Mandan	30	M	23	M	Personal Weapon	Acquaintance	Argument
11/10/2012 Standing Rock Res.	20	M	22	F	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Boyfriend	Argument Domestic Violence
11/18/2012 Mountrail County	64 13 10 6	F M F M	23	M	Rifle	Stranger	Murder/Suicide
12/2/2012 Turtle Mountain Res.	21	M	21 16	M M	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Acquaintance Acquaintance	Argument

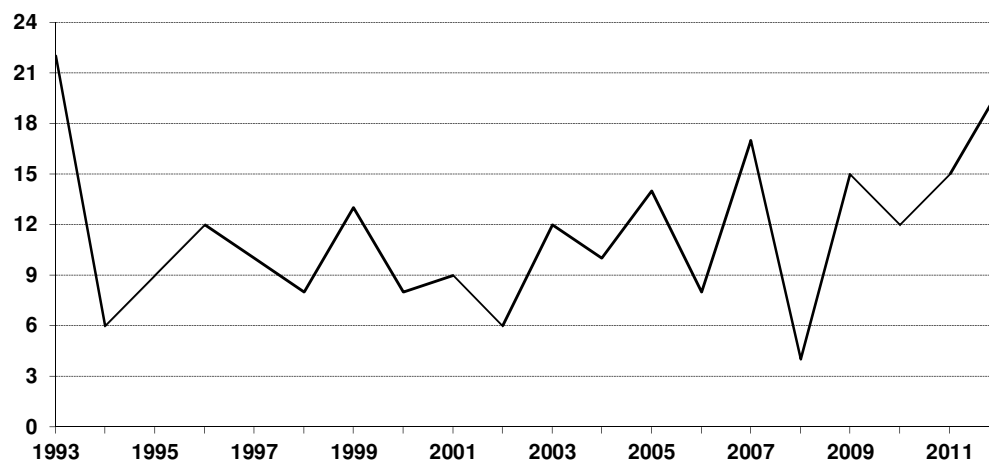
HOMICIDE TOTALS AND RATES

- Table 2 provides yearly homicide totals and homicide rate information for North Dakota during the period 1993-2012.
- The average number of homicide deaths per year during this period is 11.5.

Table 2
Homicide Rate
North Dakota, 1993-2012

Year	Homicide Total	Population Estimate	Rate/100,000 Population
1993	22	635,000	3.5
1994	6	638,000	0.9
1995	9	641,000	1.4
1996	12	644,000	1.9
1997	10	641,000	1.6
1998	8	638,000	1.3
1999	13	634,000	2.1
2000	8	642,200	1.2
2001	9	634,450	1.4
2002	6	634,110	0.9
2003	12	634,000	1.9
2004	10	634,500	1.6
2005	14	637,000	2.2
2006	8	636,000	1.3
2007	17	640,000	2.7
2008	4	641,500	0.6
2009	15	647,000	2.3
2010	12	672,591	1.6
2011	15	683,932	2.2
2012	20	699,628	2.9

Figure 1
Homicide in North Dakota
1993-2012



VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

- Sixty percent of the 230 total homicide victims during the period 1993-2012 were male.

Table 3
Gender of Homicide Victims
North Dakota, 1993-2012

Year	Male	Female	Total
1993	15	7	22
1994	2	4	6
1995	6	3	9
1996	6	6	12
1997	7	3	10
1998	6	2	8
1999	9	4	13
2000	4	4	8
2001	7	2	9
2002	2	4	6
2003	6	6	12
2004	7	3	10
2005	8	6	14
2006	4	4	8
2007	7	10	17
2008	3	1	4
2009	7	8	15
2010	8	4	12
2011	10	5	15
2012	14	6	20
Total 1993-2012	138 (60%)	92 (40%)	230

VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - AGE

- Of the 230 homicides during the period 1993-2012, 80 percent were adults. See Table 4 below.
- Thirty-seven percent of homicide victims were between the ages of 21 and 40. See Table 5 on the following page for information regarding age and gender of victims.

**Table 4
Homicide Victims
Juvenile and Adult
North Dakota, 1993-2012**

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
1993	7	15	22
1994		6	6
1995	2	7	9
1996		12	12
1997		10	10
1998	2	6	8
1999	2	11	13
2000		8	8
2001		9	9
2002	2	4	6
2003	2	10	12
2004	3	7	10
2005	2	12	14
2006	2	6	8
2007	4	13	17
2008	2	2	4
2009	4	11	15
2010	1	11	12
2011	4	11	15
2012	6	14	20
Total 1993-2012	45	185	230

Table 5
Homicide Victims
By Age and Gender
North Dakota, 1993-2012

Age	Male	Female	Total
Less than 1 year	12	10	22
01-05	3	2	5
06-10	5	2	7
11-15	2	1	3
16-20	17	10	27
21-25	16	3	19
26-30	18	8	26
31-35	6	7	13
36-40	16	10	26
41-45	5	11	16
46-50	14	10	24
51-55	7	4	11
56-60	6	2	8
61-65	1	3	4
Over 65	10	9	19
Total 1993-2012	138	92	230

WEAPONS AND VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS

- Forty percent of deaths due to homicide during the period 1993-2012 resulted from firearm use. See Table 6 below.
- In homicides involving firearms, the weapon was more likely to be a long gun than a handgun.
- Thirty-nine of the 230 total homicide deaths involved the use of "personal weapons." Personal weapons include the use of hands, fists and feet as weapons.

Table 6
Weapons of Homicide
North Dakota, 1993-2012

Year	Handgun	Other Firearm	Knife	Blunt Instrument	Personal Weapon	Other or Unknown	Total
1993	6	4	5	2	2	3	22
1994	1	2				3	6
1995	2	2	1	2		2	9
1996	3	4	4			1	12
1997		1	1	2	4	2	10
1998		3	2			3	8
1999	1	4	3	1		4	13
2000	2	1	2	1	2		8
2001	2	3	1	1	2		9
2002	1	1			2	2	6
2003	4	7			1		12
2004		5		1	1	3	10
2005	2	1	1	2	5	3	14
2006	1		4		2	1	8
2007	4		2	1	6	4	17
2008			2		2		4
2009	3	3	2	2	3	2	15
2010	2	5	1	1	3		12
2011	2	4	4	1	2	2	15
2012	1	6	6	1	2	4	20
Total 1993-2012	37	56	41	18	39	39	230

- Firearms were used in 22 percent of the homicides of juveniles. Forty-five percent of adult deaths due to homicide involved firearms. See Table 7 below.
- Thirty-six percent of homicides of males and 48 percent of homicides of females involved the use of firearms. See Table 8.
- Twenty percent of homicides of males and 15 percent of homicides of females involved knives.

Table 7
Homicide Victims
By Weapon and Age Category
North Dakota, 1993-2012

Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Handgun	2	35	37
Other Firearm	8	48	56
Knife		41	41
Blunt Instrument	1	17	18
Personal Weapon	17	22	39
Other or Unknown	17	22	39
Total 1993-2012	45	185	230

Table 8
Homicide Victims
By Weapon and Gender
North Dakota, 1993-2012

Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Handgun	23	14	37
Other Firearm	26	30	56
Knife	27	14	41
Blunt Instrument	14	4	18
Personal Weapon	24	15	39
Other or Unknown	24	15	39
Total 1993-2012	138	92	230

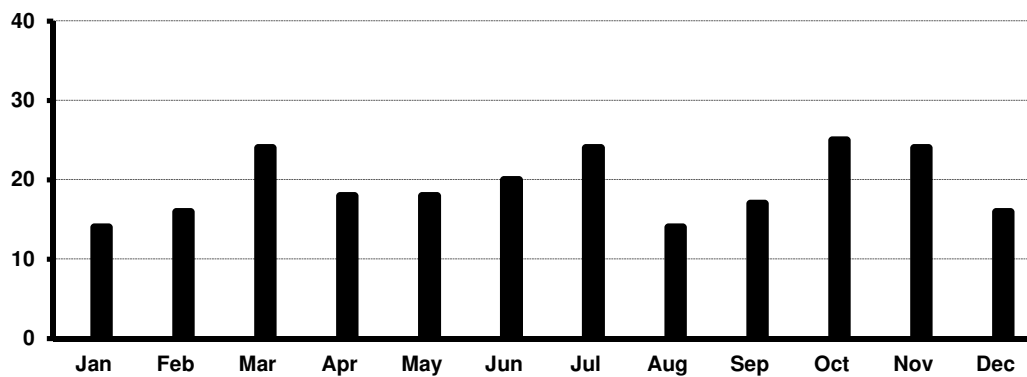
MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

- During the period 1993-2012, the month of October had the highest number of homicide deaths. See Table 9 below. Figure 2 illustrates this information graphically.

Table 9
Deaths Due to Homicide
By Month, 1993-2012

Month	Number	Percent of Total Homicides
January	14	6.1 %
February	16	7.0
March	24	10.4
April	18	7.8
May	18	7.8
June	20	8.7
July	24	10.4
August	14	6.1
September	17	7.4
October	25	10.9
November	24	10.4
December	16	7.0
Total 1993-2012	230	100.0

Figure 2
Homicides by Month of Occurrence
North Dakota, 1993-2012



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATHS

For purposes of this report, domestic violence deaths include those involving a spouse, former spouse, parent, child, persons related by blood or marriage, persons in a present or former dating relationship, persons who are presently residing together or have resided together in the past, persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they are or have been married or have lived together at any time, other persons on premises when a domestic incident occurs, and romantic triangle situations.

- For the period 1993-2012, 50 percent of deaths due to homicide involved domestic violence.

**Table 10
Domestic Violence Deaths
North Dakota, 1993-2012**

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	No Assailant Identified	Homicide Total
1993	11	11		22
1994	4	1	1	6
1995	3	6		9
1996	7	5		12
1997	2	8		10
1998	6	2		8
1999	7	6		13
2000	6	1	1	8
2001	2	7		9
2002	4	1	1	6
2003	8	4		12
2004	6	4		10
2005	6	7	1	14
2006	4	3	1	8
2007	7	9	1	17
2008		4		4
2009	12	3		15
2010	6	6		12
2011	7	7	1	15
2012	6	13	1	20
Total 1993-2012	114	108	8	230

- Persons killed in domestic violence incidents were more likely to be killed with a firearm than those killed in non-domestic incidents.
- Fifty-four percent of female deaths in domestic violence incidents involved firearms, while 33 percent of female deaths in non-domestic violence incidents involved firearms.
- Seventy-five percent of female homicide victims were killed in domestic violence incidents, compared to 33 percent of males.

Table 11
Domestic Violence Deaths
By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Victim
North Dakota, 1993-2012

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun		18	2	17
Other Firearm	4	29	4	19
Knife		19		21
Blunt Instrument	1	8		9
Personal Weapon	12	8	5	13
Other or Unknown	10	5	6	12
Total 1993-2012	27	87	17	91

Table 12
Domestic Violence Deaths
By Type of Weapon and Gender of Victim
North Dakota, 1993-2012

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	6	12	17	2
Other Firearm	8	25	18	5
Knife	11	8	15	6
Blunt Instrument	5	4	9	
Personal Weapon	7	13	17	1
Other or Unknown	8	7	11	7
Total 1993-2012	45	69	87	21

CLEARANCE RATES

- Cases may be "cleared by arrest" of an assailant, or "cleared exceptionally," if a physical arrest cannot be made for reasons beyond the control of law enforcement. An example of an exceptional clearance would be a case in which the assailant committed suicide after killing someone.
- "Clearances" should not be interpreted as "convictions." The information regarding clearances, collected through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program, reflects law enforcement activity. If an arrest is made, the UCR program considers the case cleared. UCR data does not reflect the results of prosecution of assailants.
- The average clearance rate for homicides in North Dakota during the period from 1993 to 2012 is 95 percent.

Table 13
Clearance Rates for Homicides
North Dakota, 1993-2012

Year	Total Cleared	Total Homicides	North Dakota Clearance Rate	National Clearance Rate*
1993	22	22	100%	66%
1994	5	6	83	64
1995	9	9	100	65
1996	12	12	100	67
1997	10	10	100	66
1998	8	8	100	69
1999	13	13	100	69
2000	7	8	88	63
2001	9	9	100	63
2002	5	6	83	64
2003	12	12	100	62
2004	10	10	100	63
2005	12	14	86	62
2006	7	8	88	61
2007	15	17	88	61
2008	4	4	100	64
2009	15	15	100	67
2010	12	12	100	65
2011	14	15	93	65
2012	19	20	95	Not Available

* Clearance rates reported in annual Crime in the United States reports published by the FBI.

IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

- During the period 1993-2012, 89 percent of the 237 identified homicide assailants were male.
- Eight homicides during 1993-2012 have not had an assailant identified by law enforcement.

Table 14
Identified Homicide Assailants
By Gender
North Dakota, 1993-2012

Year	Male	Female	Total
1993	17	3	20
1994	4	1	5 *
1995	19		19
1996	13	2	15
1997	8	1	9
1998	5	3	8
1999	9	2	11
2000	7	1	8 *
2001	11		11
2002	5		5 *
2003	9		9
2004	13	1	14
2005	13	1	14 *
2006	6	1	7 *
2007	14	3	17 *
2008	6	1	7
2009	15	2	17
2010	11	1	12
2011	10	2	12 *
2012	15	2	17 *
Total 1993-2012	210 (89%)	27 (11%)	237

* Indicates that at least one incident for the year does not have an identified assailant.

- Ninety-one percent of the total 237 assailants identified by law enforcement were adults. See Table 15 below.
- Of the 237 assailants identified by law enforcement, 65 percent were between the ages of 16 and 35. See Table 16 on the following page for information on age and gender of identified assailants.

Table 15
Identified Homicide Assailants
Juvenile and Adult
North Dakota, 1993-2012

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
1993	3	17	20
1994		5	5 *
1995	13	6	19
1996	1	14	15
1997		9	9
1998	1	7	8
1999		11	11
2000		8	8 *
2001		11	11
2002		5	5 *
2003		9	9
2004		14	14
2005		14	14 *
2006		7	7 *
2007	3	14	17 *
2008		7	7
2009		17	17
2010		12	12
2011		12	12 *
2012	1	16	17 *
Total 1993-2012	22 (9%)	215 (91%)	237

* Indicates that at least one incident for the year does not have an identified assailant.

Table 16
Identified Homicide Assailants
By Age and Gender
North Dakota, 1993-2012

Age	Male	Female	Total
01-05			0
06-10			0
11-15	9	2	11
16-20	40	4	44
21-25	48	7	55
26-30	30	5	35
31-35	18	2	20
36-40	15	2	17
41-45	15	3	18
46-50	12	1	13
51-55	6	1	7
56-60	8		8
61-65	3		3
Over 65	6		6
Total 1993-2012	210	27	237

WEAPONS AND IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS

- In homicide incidents involving firearms, juvenile assailants were much more likely to use firearms other than handguns.
- Male assailants were more likely to use firearms in homicide incidents, while females were more likely to use knives.

Table 17
Identified Assailants
By Type of Weapon and Age Category
North Dakota, 1993-2012

Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Handgun	1	36	37
Other Firearm	9	44	53
Knife	3	48	51
Blunt Instrument	3	18	21
Personal Weapon	4	39	43
Other or Unknown	2	30	32
Total 1993-2012	22	215	237

Table 18
Identified Assailants
By Type of Weapon and Gender
North Dakota, 1993-2012

Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Handgun	36	1	37
Other Firearm	51	2	53
Knife	41	10	51
Blunt Instrument	21		21
Personal Weapon	37	6	43
Other or Unknown	24	8	32
Total 1993-2012	210	27	237

- Forty-eight percent of assailants identified by law enforcement were involved in domestic violence incidents. See Table 19 below.

- Assailants were more likely to use firearms in domestic incidents than in non-domestic incidents. See Table 20.
- Knives were more likely to be used by assailants in non-domestic incidents.
- Seventy-eight percent of identified female assailants were involved in domestic incidents, compared to 44 percent for males. See Table 22.

Table 19
Identified Homicide Assailants
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
North Dakota, 1993-2012

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
1993	8	12	20
1994	4	1	5 *
1995	4	15	19
1996	7	8	15
1997	2	7	9
1998	6	2	8
1999	6	5	11
2000	6	2	8 *
2001	2	9	11
2002	4	1	5 *
2003	6	3	9
2004	6	8	14
2005	7	7	14 *
2006	4	3	7 *
2007	9	8	17 *
2008		7	7
2009	14	3	17
2010	6	6	12
2011	7	5	12 *
2012	6	11	17 *
Total 1993-2012	114 (48%)	123 (52%)	237

* Indicates that at least one incident for the year does not have an identified assailant.

Table 20
Weapon Use by Identified Assailants
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents

North Dakota, 1993-2012

Weapon	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
Handgun	20	17	37
Other Firearm	28	25	53
Knife	19	32	51
Blunt Instrument	9	12	21
Personal Weapon	22	21	43
Other or Unknown	16	16	32
Total 1993-2012	114	123	237

Table 21
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Assailant
North Dakota, 1993-2012

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun		20	1	16
Other Firearm		28	9	16
Knife	1	18	2	30
Blunt Instrument		9	3	9
Personal Weapon	2	20	2	19
Other or Unknown	1	15	1	15
Total 1993-2012	4	110	18	105

Table 22
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
By Type of Weapon and Gender of Assailant
North Dakota, 1993-2012

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	19	1	17	
Other Firearm	26	2	25	
Knife	12	7	29	3
Blunt Instrument	9		12	
Personal Weapon	17	5	20	1
Other or Unknown	10	6	14	2
Total 1993-2012	93	21	117	6